(c) whether similar studies are being considered for other NTC subsidiaries?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. Sir.

Purchase of Zinc from abroad by MMTC

754. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of zinc directly negotiated and purchased by MMTC from abroad annually during the last three years;

(b) whether such purchasss have been made at the minimum price prevailing during the years; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Purchases are made through direct negotiations only from Rupee Payment Countries. Quantities and value of zinc so purchased for the last three years are given below:

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs crores)
1985-86	11,900	13.63
1986-87	14,350	15.43
1987-88	24,625	30.10

(b) and (c) Since it is not possible to forecast the minimum prices which are likely to prevail during the year, imports are made based on prevalent international market prices depending upon our requirements and domestic production levels.

International Trade

755. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that other developing countries are taking vigorous steps to promote their international trade by projecting their image aggressively;

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated to project India's image abroad more aggressively; and

(c) whether Government are considering any major change in their strategy with respect of international trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) It is accepted that all countries, including developing countries, take steps to project their technological and industrial achievements and capabilities to promote tneir trade. India has also been taking several steps in this direction. These include organisation and participation in general as well as specialised trade fairs and exhibitions, contact promotion programmes, visits of trade delegations, Joint Business Councils, buyer-seller meets, promotional programmes through departmental stores abroad and publicity through various media projecting India's economic and technological capabilities and achievements. As a part of our changing strategy to promote exports, a series of other initiatives have also been taken to generate surpluses for exports, to induce the production of goods contemporary in technolobgy and competitive in prices and to make exports profitable.

Representation from ex-Andaman Political Prisoners fraternity Circle, New Delhi

756. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum dated 26th

October, 1987 from Ex-Andaman Political Prisoners' Fraternity Circle, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are their demands and suggestions; and

(c) what is Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) They have demanded grant of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension to 10 eminent Ex-Andaman freedom fighters who had not applied for pension earlier. The matter is under consideration.

Seizure of Animal Skins in Delhi

575. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge quantity of animal skins meant for clandestine export were seized in Delhi during the months of March and April 1988;

(b) if so, the value thereof and the names of the animals whose skins were being exported; and

(c) the details of persons arrested in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Details of wild annimal skins seized by the Delhi Police and the wildlife wing of Delhi Administration during March and April, 1988 are given in Statements-I and II, respectively (see below). The value of these skins cannot be estimated correctly.

Whether the skins were to be illegally used within the country or were intended for clandestine export, is not known.

(c) Two persons have been arrested in the case detected on 25.3.1988 and one person in the case detected on 9.4.1988. The prosecution proceedings have been launched against these persons.

No person has so far been arrested in the cases detected on 30.3.1988 and 22.4.1988.

Statement—I

List of wild animal skins seized by Delhi Police on 25-3-1988 from Zafarabad, New Seelampur, Delhi.

	Name of wild animal	Number of skins seized
1.	Tiger	1
2.	Leopard	5
3.	Wolf	1
4.	Desert Cat	19
5.	Jackal	2178
6.	Jungle Cat	1204
7.	Common Fox	61
8.	Red Fox	55
9.	Toddy Cat	45
10.	Snake skins	25800
		29369